



Muscogee Nation  
Council overview

• Page 3



Three new programs  
approved at OSU/  
Okmulgee

• Story page 5



Creek Warrior close  
to retiring from  
boxing

• Story page 8



[www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/)

E-mail: [lucast@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:lucast@muscogeenation-nsn.gov)

# Muscogee Nation News

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit # 14  
Okmulgee, OK  
74447

Volume 33, Issue 3

P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

March 2004, 8 Pages

## Food distribution to hold open house ceremony

OKMULGEE — In support of this year's National Nutrition Month "Eat Smart, Stay Healthy" campaign, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food Distribution Program will be having an open house ceremony on March 30 from 1 pm to 3 pm.

Food Distribution, which has been in operation for 22 years, provides commodity foods to households that must meet certain income guidelines and have assets within specified limits. In addition, each eligible household must include at least one person who is a member of a Federally-recognized tribe and must reside in a designated service area. The program service area includes Creek, Okmulgee, Okfuskee, Tulsa, Hughes, Muskogee, corner of Wagoner, Mayes, and McIntosh counties.



Food Distribution Building

In support of National Nutrition Month, the Food Distribution Program suggest using the Food Guide Pyramid as a roadmap in the journey to: eating a variety of foods; using moderation when selecting portion sizes; balancing food choices over time; and developing a personal fitness plan that fits your life-style.

"Making healthful eating, physical activity, and life-style choices can benefit people of all ages," said Linday Rayon, Creek Nation Food Distribution Program Director. "Celebrate National Nutrition Month by trying new foods and new physical activities."

Every month participating households receive a nutritious food package consisting of meats, vegetables, fruits, dairy products, grains, and cereals. Food Distribution serves an average of 3200 each month. For more information about the open house or eligibility requirements, contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food Distribution Program at 3001 N. Wood Drive or (918) 756-3467.

## Chief Ellis to begin having community meetings



Principal Chief A.D. Ellis will begin having community town hall meetings throughout the Creek Nation boundary area. His first scheduled meeting will be on March 25, at 7 pm at the Eufaula Indian Community Center. The purpose of the meetings is to establish an open line of communication between the citizens and the tribal government.

Chief Ellis has also scheduled his first annual meeting with ceremonial ground leaders on April 17 at the Mound building. Chief Ellis also plans on taking time out on Wednesdays to visit the elderly at the various elderly nutrition sites.

During his state of the nation address, Ellis stated, "There are two kinds of politicians. There's politicians that make decision that benefit themselves and certain groups of people. There's another group that's called statesmen that make decisions that benefit the tribe as a whole regardless of what happens. I'd like to think all of us sitting here are statesmen." That's the basis for the above mentioned meetings, to make decisions that will benefit the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

*photo by Miller Photography Inc.*

## Creek Nation Festival announces changes for pageant

OKMULGEE — The 30th Annual Creek Nation Festival will be changing this year's Muscogee Nation Pageant to the Muscogee Nation Scholarship Pageant. The Johnson O' Malley program is coordinating the Scholarship Pageants.

"The changes were made in order to have a better focus on education for their future," stated Cherrah Quiett, National Council Representative. "We expect more, we need to give more."

Miss and Jr. Miss scholarship pageant events will be held on June 3. Senior Ms. and Little Miss scholarship pageant events will be held on June 5. A reception for this year's royalty will be held on June 17.

The age groups for all categories are miss Mvskoke, ages 17 to 22 (high school graduate); junior miss, ages 14 to 17

(still in high school); senior Ms., ages 55 years and older, little miss division I, ages four to six; division II, ages seven to nine; division III, ages 10 to 13.



2003 Mvskoke Nation Royalty

Participants must be at least one-fourth Muscogee (Creek).

Prizes include: miss Mvskoke — \$2,500, crown, and trophy; runner-up receives \$500 and a plaque; junior miss — \$500, crown, and trophy; runner-up will receive \$125 and plaque; senior misses — \$500, trophy, and crown; runner-up will receive \$125 and plaque; little miss — all three divisions receive \$100, trophy, and crown; each division runner-up will receive \$25 and plaque. Miss Mvskoke will also receive a cash scholarship.

The deadline date for applications is May 3 by 5:00 p.m. For more information, contact Koko Lowe at 732-7665.



## Office of the Principal Chief...

by A.D. Ellis

Hello again friends & fellow Creeks. What a special time of year is springtime. Green grow, trees leaving out & warmer weather coming on.

It's also a spring time in this first year of this administration. Many changes are moving forward and dept. or division leaders are making adjustments for a better quality of tribal programs. I have not been very visible this first 2 months and really miss visiting the nutrition centers and visiting with tribal citizens. I assure you that it's because of a overwhelming work load but it will ease up before long as my new directors assume control of their respective divisions. My first town hall meeting is March 25th in Eufaula at 6:30 p.m. in the community center. Another meeting scheduled for April 17th is ceremonial ground leaders yearly meeting at the Mound building. Notification for people involved will be sent very soon.



Another very important event was the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise receiving another government contract with the Army Medical Command for up to \$50,000,000 over a period of 10 years. I want everyone to know that we are working very aggressively to become a business oriented Nation to provide revenue and jobs for our citizens. This is no quick fix and will take time to achieve from no industry to a leading industrial tribal nation. Trade and Commerce is moving forward in many areas also to provide industrial development. This is our future.

Again thanks to all those who have offered their prayers for our welfare and our tribal leaders. This job would be so difficult and hard if it were not for the many people who believe in you and trust that we will do what's best for our people.

Enjoy all the onion dinners scheduled this year and maybe we'll see each other & one.

Remember the upcoming Creek Festival. I asked for an all new All Indian Rodeo (sanctioned) and have been promised the biggest & best in many years. We already have promised cowboys from several states including Choctaws & the Florida Seminoles. Good Luck to the new festival committee. *Mvto.*

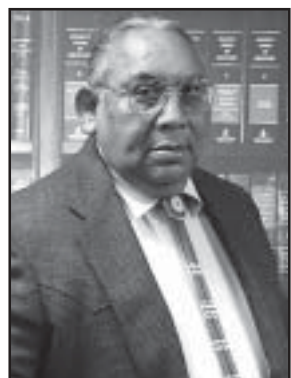
## Second opinion

by Second Chief Alfred Berryhill

*Henks Ce.* As usual, it has been a very busy month. Lots of phone calls, visitors and board meetings. I'm happy to announce that the Document Imaging Company of the Trade and Commerce has begun operation. They are located at the old Food Distribution building. The manager tells me that as soon as some of the equipment is received and set up, he will be taking applications. His name is, **Danny Wesley**, and he may be reached by calling 732-7763 for more information. The Document Imaging is a much needed service for our Nation as well as other businesses. They will be storing files on disc as well as putting the information on the internet.

There are several upcoming events that I will be attending: On March 11-12, **Judge Patric Moore**, will be hosting a seminar on 'Doing Business in Indian Country' in Covelle Hall at the Okmulgee OSU campus; On March 19th, the Nation will be hosting the Spring Celebration behind the Mound Building. Starting time will be at 9:30 a.m.; A Workshop & Forum (Community Development) @ Green Country Vo-Tech will be on March 26th beginning at 8:00 a.m.; The day for Prayer & Fasting (Spirit Wind 2004) has been scheduled for April 3rd, beginning at 9:45 a.m. — location to be announced and is being hosted by the Morning Star Fellowship located at 722 N. Hodge in Sapulpa; and Mason School will be hosting the American Indian Day on April 22nd beginning at 8:45 a.m.

**Mr. Amon Deere**, one of the service officers with the DAV, came by my office and a date has been set for the Nation to host a DAV Seminar for veterans. The seminar will be held in the Mound



Building auditorium with the counselors meeting one on one in the National Council chambers. This seminar is intended to reach all veterans that served in all wars and peace time. **Mr. Deere** informs me that there are a lot of new programs that are available to veterans including veterans who have served in Iraq.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder for veterans serving during WWII is now available and will increase pension pay. Korean veterans who served in 1968 on the DMZ are eligible under agent orange because that area was sprayed. There are just a couple of benefits that are available to our veterans. Packets will be made available to all veterans attending the seminar. Please remember to bring your DD214's. For further information concerning benefits and the seminar, you may contact **Charles Lovelow**, National Service Officer for the DAV in Muskogee at 918-781-7575, ext. 6768 or **Billy Grimes Jr.**, at 918-781-7764. The reason we are making this announcement early is that we are urging all citizens who knows any veteran may inform them of the seminar. There are a lot of veterans who are eligible and are not receiving any benefits that they deserve. We need to beat the bushes for these men and women.

On a business note, our Tribal 8(a) company, the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise, is growing rapidly and now includes business units in Information Technology, Construction Services and Fire & Security Systems. Locally, MNBE's Fire & Security Systems and Construction Services Divisions are supporting our Tribe on multiple projects. These projects are allowing MNBE to hire and employ Creek citizens locally and in just less than a year, MNBE, has hired 20 Creek citizens. MNBE is working with local and national corporate partners to increase career opportunities for our citizens.

I hope to be seeing some of you soon. Don't forget, March 25th, is our first Town Hall meeting. *Mvto.*

## Citizen need input for booklet

Editor:

It has been noted that there is very little knowledge or recognition of Creeks who gave great service to Creek Nation. To correct this oversight a group of Creek citizens have been working on a booklet to present to enrolled Creek children. We are still asking for citizen input for people they think rendered great service to Creeks. Mr. Ted Isham, curator of the Creek Council House, will welcome this information. His address is 100 West 6th, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, 74447.

**Jorene Coker, Preston**

## Woman searching for ancestors

Editor:

I am looking for information on my great-grandfather, John Harris Johnson (1845-1930?). He lived in and around the area of Beggs. He was married to Jennie Thomas and some of their children were Goldsmith, Robert, Pearl, Minnie, Mattie, Pasco, and C.D.

If anyone has any information, please feel free to contact me at 19226 Sheryl Ave., Cerritos, CA 90703 or e-mail at [istarwmn@aol.com](mailto:istarwmn@aol.com)

**Arlene Walker, Cerritos, California**

## Muscogee Nation News

**The Muscogee Nation News** is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to **The Muscogee Nation News**, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in **The Muscogee Nation News**, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of **The Muscogee Nation News**, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

**The Muscogee Nation News** is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

**Lucas Taylor, managing editor**  
**Denise Jacobs, editorial assistant**  
**Gerald Wofford, photography/writer**  
**Ruth Bible, page layout**  
**Jennifer Taryole, circulation**

# Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the November 22, regular session.

## November 25, special session

Absent were: **Daniel Wind**, Muskogee District; **Mae Jackson**, Okfuskee District; **Sandra Peters**, Muskogee District; **Dwayne Lowe**, Tukvptce District; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa District; **Cherrah Ridge Quiett**, Tulsa District; **Ron Cleghorn**, Tulsa District; **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa District; and **Jesse Kelley**, Tulsa District;

Speaker **Wilbur Gouge**, McIntosh District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

representative **Cleghorn** arrived;

In order of business the Council:

- approved (15-2-0) NCA 03-201, establishing a comprehensive clothing assistance program;

voting no were: **Almerigi**, Okmulgee and **Cleghorn**, Tulsa;

- approved (10-6-0) NCA 03-205, amending NCA 92-193 (Muscogee National Council compensation act) as amended by NCA 00-58, as amended by NCA 00-157, to increase the compensation of the national council representatives;

voting no were: **Aaron**, Creek; **Warrington**, Creek; **Barnett**, Creek; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Jackson**, Okfuskee; **Johnson**, Okmulgee;

- approved (17-0-0) NCA 03-209, amending NCA 03-171 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving the comprehensive annual budget for 2004 and providing for appropriations)

- failed (8-9-0) NCA 03-211, authorizing a special appropriation to the Tulsa homebuilders association for Ryal school Christmas celebration;

voting no were: **Aaron**, Creek; **Warrington**, Creek; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Jackson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Almerigi**, Okmulgee; **Fields**, Tukvptce; **Berryhill**, Wagoner; **Gillespie**, Wagoner;

- approved (15-2-0) NCA 03-213, authorizing a special appropriation to assist churches who give out candy/fruit for Christmas;

voting no were: **Aaron**, Creek; and **Almerigi**, Okmulgee;

- approved (17-0-0) NCA 03-226, authorizing

ing a special appropriation to personnel services, administration for the purpose of a digital document recorder;

- approved as amended (16-1-0) NCA 03-231, authorizing a special appropriation to financially assist two Muscogee (Creek) Citizens to attend the 12th Native American Film and Video



Festival in New York City, New York;

## Jan. 3, special session

Posting of the colors by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Honor Guards; **Wilbur Gouge**, Speaker 12th session Muscogee (Creek) National Council introduced the 13th Session of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council members.

Swearing in of Council members by Supreme Court Justice **Amos McNac**.

Election of Speaker (constitution Article IV 2.B);

nominated were: **Barbara Gillespie**, Wagoner District; **George Tiger**, Creek District; **Tom Pickering**, McIntosh District; and **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District.

voting by secret ballot, **Thomas Yahola** was declared to be the Speaker by majority vote.

Election of second speaker;

nominated were: **Roger Barnett**, Creek District; **Barbara Gillespie**, Wagoner District; and **Richard Berryhill**, Wagoner District;

voting by secret ballot, **Richard Berryhill** was declared to the second speaker by majority vote.

Election of Sergeant-At-Arms;

nominated were: **Roger Barnett**, Creek District and **David Nichols**, Okmulgee District; representative **Barnett** declined nomination; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa District; mad a motion to nominate **David Nichols** as Sergeant-At-Arms by acclamation.

12th session rules of procedures were adopted.

## Jan. 13, special session

absent were: **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Parish**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Fields**, Tukvptce; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Hufft**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-013, authorizing a special appropriation to the social services program for burial assistance;

- approved (23-0-0) NCA 04-014, authorizing a special appropriation to the Robert Simmons Funeral Home;

## Jan. 27, special session

absent were: **Barnett**, Creek; **Pickering**, McIntosh; **McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee;

**Bible**, Tulsa; **Hufft**, Tulsa;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved as amended (17-0-0) NCA 04-016, amending NCA 99-95 (an ordinance of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation establishing permanent eligibility guideline for the tribal energy assistance program and repealing previous guidelines);

- approved as amended (17-0-0) NCA 04-018, amending NCA 03-171 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving the comprehensive annual budget for fiscal year 2004 and providing for appropriations) as amended by NCA 03-209 and NCA 03-248;

- approved (17-0-0) NCA 04-022, authorizing a special appropriation to **Wanda Mae Postoak** full blood creek citizen for energy assistance;

- approved (17-0-0) NCA 04-023, authorizing a special appropriation to **Brenda Lou Harjo**, Muscogee (Creek) citizen, for energy assistance.



## Birthdays

Cloud celebrates with skating party

TULSA —Destiny LouAnne Cloud turned nine on Jan. 29 and celebrated at the Tulsa skating center on Jan. 30 with many friends and family members.

Destiny plays basketball, softball and former cheerleader. She currently attends Union-Andersen elementary. Cloud is from Duck Creek and Nuyaka ceremonial ground and a member of the turtle clan.

She is the daughter of LaCreshia Cloud of Broken Arrow and Dustin Cloud of Tahlequah.

Maternal grandparents are Pam Barnett of Tulsa and Bill Littlehead of Santa Fe, NM.

Paternal grandparents are Ben Cloud of Bristow and the late Deborah Dilbeck.

Destiny has two sisters, Deborah age six and Christian age three.



Cloud

Harjo celebrates 21st birthday

OKMULGEE— Sharon Harjo celebrated her 21st birthday on Jan.18.

She is the daughter of Sheila Harjo of Okmulgee.

Grandparents are Naomi Harjo of Okmulgee and Gary Mitchell of Hanna.

She is a member of the Greenleaf tribal town and the wind clan.

Harjo celebrates 21st birthday

TULSA — Rachael Harjo celebrated her 21st birthday on Feb. 11.

She is the daughter of Jimmy and Jerri Harjo of Turley.

Grandparents are Naomi Harjo of Okmulgee and Gary Mitchell of Hanna.

She is a member of the Greenleaf tribal town and of the wind clan.

Washington celebrates first birthday at McDonald's

OKMULGEE — Hunter Yahv Washington turned one on Jan. 22. He celebrated with a party at McDonald's and a party at home with a host of loving family and friends.

He is the son of Diane Beasley and Robert Washington, Jr.

Maternal grandparents are Cheryl Grayson of Beggs and Freeman Lowe of Okmulgee.

Paternal grandparents are Robert and Irene Washington, Sr. of Okmulgee.



Washington

Hunter has two sisters, Caremen and Christyn and one brother, Chance.

## Society

Renee Stewart senior at Warren high school

DOWNEY, CALF. — Renee Nicole Stewart is a senior at Warren High school.

She is a two year varsity letterman, plays the center/forward position and the current tri-captain of the team. Renee plays the guitar, drums and sings with a praise and worship group.

After graduation she plans to continue her educational program at one of the local colleges and pursue a degree in sports medicine.

She is the daughter of Kristy Taylor-Stewart and Robert Stewart of Downey, California.

Maternal grandparents are Luanna and Ken Taylor of Anaheim, California.

Renee is the great granddaughter of the late Alice and Hully Taylor of Henryetta.



Stewart

4-H program receives funds for programs

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation 4-H Program has been awarded tribal funds for the sheep and pig programs and is now accepting applications. This educational program is for Muscogee youth ages 9-19 who reside within the tribal boundaries and need assistance with either a pig or a sheep 4-H project. Applications, a \$10 application fee, proof of tribal citizenship, and proof of income for all household members are due March 30<sup>th</sup>.

General information sessions will be held at the Weleetka Indian Center March 25<sup>th</sup> and at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation 4-H Ag Center near Glenpool March 26<sup>th</sup>. Applications, 4-H brochures, & 4-H enrollment forms will be available for your convenience. Each meeting will start at 6:00 p.m.

On-line applications are available at <http://countyext.okstate.edu/creeknation>. Information is also available through JOM coordinators, County Extension Offices, or the

Creek Nation 4-H Extension Office at (918)-732-7639. Multi-Cultural festival to be held at Bacone

MUSKOGEE — Bacone College will be hosting a Native American Multi-Cultural Festival on March 26 and 27.

The activities will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will feature tours of the Ataloo Lodge Museum, exhibits and demonstrations, poetry reading, Hispanic and Vietnamese dancers, and Native American games, such as stickball and marbles and dice.

Along with the mutli-cultural festival guests can enjoy the Taste of Nations International Fair, which begins dishes from China, India, Japan, Korea, Nigeria, Ukraine, Guatemala, and the German American Society of Tulsa to the festival.

For more information, contact the Chairman of the Multi-Cultural Committee, Larry Daylight, at (918) 683-4581, ext. 7278.

OU to host 8th annual symposium

NORMAN — The University of Oklahoma's Native American Studies program and the College of Public Health's Native American Export Center will be hosting the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on American Indians April 8 and 9 in the Oklahoma Memorial Union on OU's campus.

The theme for the symposium is "Indian Education, Leadership, and Tribal Governments." Among the speakers invited are Governor Brad Henry and Greg E. Pyle, Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Break out sessions, sponsored by various tribes, will focus on tribal education department development, tribal languages in public schools, tribal college development, higher education financial aid and admissions trends, tribal gaming and public education, public health issues and related careers for Native American Students.

Registration is \$100 which includes all the needed materials, luncheon and reception at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History. For more information please call Margaret Vennoch at 405-332-2312.



**SEQUOYAH**



Championships...

It's what Indians are made of!

**Catch us in action!**

For more information about Sequoyah High School visit our Website at:

[www.sequoyah.k12.ok.us](http://www.sequoyah.k12.ok.us)

or call:

1 - 888 - GO SHS GO  
(1-888-467-4746)

Now accepting applications  
for Fall 2004



## NSU announces dates for annual symposium

**TAHLEQUAH** — The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Symposium on the American Indian will be held April 14-17, 2004, in the University Center on the NSU Tahlequah campus. The theme, *Cultural Journeys: Four Centuries of American Indian Education*, highlights the history, legacies, and impact of education on tribal populations of the United States, particularly those in Indian Territory, and later, Oklahoma. The three-day symposium agenda includes multimedia presentations, scholarly research, lectures, a native language seminar, teacher workshops, theater, cultural activities, arts and crafts, exhibitions, panel discussions, and other activities that give focus to historical topics and contemporary issues of American Indians. Keynote speakers are noted authors, historians, educators, and linguists, including: Dr. Margaret Connell-Szasz, University of New Mexico; Dr. Rennard Strickland, University of Oregon; Dr. Greg O'Brien, University of Southern Mississippi; Dr. Akira Yamamoto, University of Kansas; Dr. Jon Reyhner, University of Northern Arizona, and Dr. Don Bartlette, Motivational Speaker. One hour of college credit may be earned by enrolling prior to April 14. The symposium, which draws a national audience, is open to the public and free of charge.

On Friday evening, an Indian School Reunion will be held at the NSU Alumni Center. The public is invited to attend

The final day will feature a powwow with a lineup of NSU alumni and staff including: Archie Mason (MC), Osage Principal Chief Jim Gray (head dancer), Lena Nells (head lady dancer), Don Bread (head gourd dancer), George Roy (head singer), and Warren Hawk (arena director). The powwow will honor NSU alumnus, Bryan "Jake" Chanate, NSU Veterans' Coordinator. Victoria Mills, Muscogee (Creek) junior from Okmulgee, will make her final appearance as 2003-04 NSU Native American Student Association (NASA) Princess. The powwow will begin at 2 p.m. in the NSU University Center with gourd dancing. The grand entry will be at 7:30 p.m. with intertribal dancing until midnight. There is no charge for admission. Arts and crafts booths will be on display.

For more information on events or college credit,



Powwow dancer



Mills

contact the NSU Center for Tribal Studies, 600 North Grand Avenue, Tahlequah, OK, 74464, or call 918/456-5511, ext. 4350. To contact electronically, visit [www.nsuok.edu](http://www.nsuok.edu) (upcoming events menu) or email [tribalstudies@nsuok.edu](mailto:tribalstudies@nsuok.edu).

## Three New Programs Approved at OSU-Okmulgee

**OKMULGEE** — The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education recently approved three technical, discipline-specific bachelor of technology degrees at Oklahoma State University Technical Branch in Okmulgee. Bachelor degree programs are new to the Okmulgee campus, well known for its technology-intensive associate in applied science programs and high graduate job placement.

Two of the new degree programs, Information Assurance and Forensics and Instrumentation Engineering Technology, are scheduled to begin in September 2004. The Civil Engineering Technology degree is planned to launch in September 2005. Each program is designed to address the demand for employees skilled in the sophisticated application of emerging technologies to problems facing industry.

**Regents'** Chairman Marlin "Ike" Glass Jr. said the new bachelor level technical degree programs align with Oklahoma's Economic Development Generating Excellence (EDGE) initiative and address key action items to improve the state's economy. "Oklahoma needs more workers with technical skills that provide a competitive edge for industry and stable careers for employees. To stay competitive, businesses need employees who can forge solutions and create technical innovations."

Last fall, industry partners recommended the new bachelor degree programs of study for the Okmulgee campus. The business leaders affirmed a critical shortage of highly skilled employees in these three technical disciplines and predicted program graduates would immediately begin to fill industry needs.

Dr. Bob Klabenes, president of OSU-Okmulgee, says the college is uniquely positioned to offer these programs on an accelerated schedule. "Our campus produces graduates with superior proficiency in a shorter time frame," says Klabenes. "We operate on a year-round trimester calendar and students may earn a bachelor of technology degree in three years of full time study."

The Information Assurance and Forensics program will prepare information security professionals to fill critical positions in one of the fastest growing sectors of the

IT industry. These employees will assure the integrity and security of corporate and institutional networks, shield sensitive data, safeguard information technology assets and provide protection from hacker threats, viruses and worms.

The forensics side of the program teaches the skills required to investigate prohibited or criminal cyber activity.

The Instrumentation Engineering Technol-

ogy program graduates will improve, maintain and design instrumentation and control assets for oil and gas refineries, food and chemical processing plants and power generation facilities. They will be able to provide high-tech solutions that increase the consistency, quality and quantity of production and automation processes.

The Civil Engineering Technology program will prepare employees to design efficient, practical and cost-effective solutions for complex engineering problems by applying skills in project management, global positioning systems, satellite imaging, aerial survey techniques and geographic information systems.

Enrollment is now open for the two bachelor of technology degree programs that start in September 2004. The college's Office of Student Affairs says financial aid packages are available for prospective students who qualify.

Creek Nation citizens may be eligible to receive tuition funding through the Creek Nation Tribal Grant. Potential students can apply for assistance through the Creek Nation Employment and Training Office in Okmulgee. Processing time is two weeks.

Oklahoma State University's Technical Branch in Okmulgee is a public, state-supported institution committed to increasing the potential and productivity of the people it serves. Eighteen programs of study lead to Associate in Applied Science degrees, three programs of study lead to Associate in Science transfer degrees, and now three programs lead to Bachelor of Technology degrees. The campus is known for hands-on technical education, world-class equipment and robust partnerships with industry.

For more information about the new Bachelor of Technology degree programs call (918) 293-4678 or 1.(800) 722-4471. Information also is available online at [www.osu-okmulgee.edu](http://www.osu-okmulgee.edu).



Civil Engineering



Information Assurance



Instrumentation

Social Services has funds available for energy program

**OKMULGEE** — The Social Services department is currently taking applications for heating assistance for both tribal energy assistance and low income home energy assistance programs. Past participants who received assistance since November are not eligible to reapply. Individuals who have received assistance from other agencies/community centers are ineligible due to the no duplication of services policies. The following is basic information required to complete the application process: CDIB/citizenship, social security cards, and employment/unemployment verification for each household member eighteen years of age and older to document income, and the heating bill/invoice. The bill/invoice must be in the applicant or spouse's name. Households with minor children need to submit documentation of the children's ages. Applicants caring for minor children other than their own will need to submit documentation of legal custody. Additional documentation will be required for students 18 years or older who attend high school, vocational-technical school, or college to verify their unemployment status and/or financial assistance.

For more information, contact the Social Service Department at (918) 732-7619 or (800) 482-1979 ext. 7619 or 7620.

#### Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard

**OKMULGEE** — The Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard was created to provide final military honors to Creek veterans. Over the years since its inception, the Honor Guard has been asked to participate also in parades, functions and ceremonies as the tribe's representatives. As more people and groups find out about the Guard and its duties, more requests come in for their assistance. As a result of these added duties the Honor Guard sometimes runs short handed.

Commander, Thomas Yahola and Honor Guard members invite all honorably discharged Creek veterans to join in their endeavors by attending their monthly meeting held in the B.I.A. conference room at the tribal complex every second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m.

Pot luck dinners are often served afterwards as members clean rifles and discuss future events. The group recently participated in Chief A.D. Ellis' Inauguration and will be posting the colors for the J.O.M. conference this month and will March in the Muskogee azalea Parade in early April.

New uniforms were recently purchased for all members to replace others previously used for years. Another new addition to the group is an electronic bugle which plays a realistic sounding version of "Taps".

Should any tribal member or group require the assistance of the Honor Guard, please remember that at least 48 hour notice is required for attendance at funerals. Commander Yahola, also Speaker of the House, can be reached during working hours at the council office, (918) 758-1410 or after hours at (405) 452-3552.

Any member of the Honor Guard can also be contacted to make arrangements. The group can also be contacted by e-mail at [bluemoon@lakewebs.net](mailto:bluemoon@lakewebs.net).

#### Vocational rehabilitation has relocated

**OKEMAH** — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Vocational Rehabilitation has relocated to 401 South Woody Guthrie Street and will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Also, our office located within the Workforce Oklahoma – Okmulgee center building will be open on Tuesdays and Thursday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. in room 4A.

You can contact the office at (918) 623-1197 or (888)367-2332.

#### Spring Celebration

**OKMULGEE** — The Muscogee Nation Community Partnership Board is sponsoring the 2nd annual spring celebration. It will be held on March 19 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal complex grounds. The festivities will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at approximately 4 p.m. This event is a free resource fair and sporting event. Our goal is to provide informational resources to families and provide fun activities for our children and youth.

Some of the events for the day include workshops for the kids on hygiene, disaster, and safety; basketball and soccer tournaments; jump rope and free ropes for participants; stickball; and a free lunch. We are also inviting representatives from the universities, colleges, IHS scholarship office, and all branches of military to set up informational booths. Through the countless support of the sponsors and the Muscogee National Council in 2003, we were able to provide a FREE fun and informational day to over 400 persons. The deadline for registration in the basketball tournament in 9 a.m. the day of the event.

For more information, contact Missy Pigeon at (800) 482-1979 ext. 7620. For information on soccer, call Scott Robison at (800) 219-9458 ext. 458.

#### Intertribal monitoring association

**OKMULGEE** — Intertribal monitoring association on Indian trust funds will host a "Listening Conference" for tribes and individuals on tribal, individual trust funds & assets issues on April 2 & 3 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Mound Auditorium at the Main Capital Complex located on Hwy 75 & Loop 56 North.

For more information contact Della cherry at (918)732-7967; Rachael Sumka at (918) 732-7605 or Sonya Lytch at (918) 732-7702.

#### Personnel department announces job opportunities

**OKMULGEE** — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation personnel office announces job opportunities are posted on the tribal website at [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov). Applications may be made at the Personnel Services office in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Complex building, located on the corner of Highway 75 and Loop 56.

#### Third annual Spring Sing

**WELEETKA** — Alabama Indian baptist church will hold their third annual spring singing on March 20, dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

Church and youth groups; solo's; duets; trio's; quartets; creek hymns, gospel, church hymns, devotions, testimonies are all welcome.

Come and share, come and listen, come and praise the lord as we enter the spring season. If you can't come, pray that the lord will bless this service.

#### Okmulgee Elderly Nutrition Valentine's Party

**OKMULGEE** — On Feb. 13, the Okmulgee nutrition center celebrated their valentine's day. Their festivities included games, door prizes, music, cake decorating, and king and queen contest.

Louise Lowe won the cake decorating contest with her red velvet cake. Jim and Lillian Thomas were voted the Valetine sweethearts for 2004. Other contestants were Mitchell and Verde Depriest, Earl and Pat Kelly and Pod and pearl Thomas, and Ben and Andrea Barnett.

## Wild Onion Dinners

Big Cussetah Methodist church

March 20 — 11-3 p.m.

Adults — \$6

Children 10 & under — \$3

Location three miles east of Okmulgee on Hwy 62 & 3.5 miles south on Prairie Bell road.

Haikey Chapel

March 20 — 11-3 p.m.

Adults — \$7.50

Children 6 & under — \$4

Location: 8500 E. 101st, three block east of Memorial.

Tulsa Indian United Methodist church

March 20 — 11:30 - 6 p.m.

Adults — \$7

Location: 1901 N. College

Concharty

March 27 — 11-3 p.m.

Adults — \$7

Children 8 & under — \$4

Location: four miles north of Hwy 16 on Bixby Road and one mile east.

Springfield UMC

April 3 — 11-5p.m.

Adults — \$6.00

children 10 & under — \$3.00

Location: two miles South on Hwy 27. four miles east, one mile south. Signs will be posted.

For more information contact Ethel Humble at (918) 623-1710.



## HATTIEALEXANDER

LAMAR — Funeral services for Hattie Bruner Alexander were held December 4 at Middle Creek #1 Church with Pastor Johnson Roberts officiating and assisted by Rev. Joe W. Bruner.

She was born January 26, 1919 in Lamar to Robertson and Louise Bruner. Hattie was married to George "Toby" Alexander on January 25, 1946, in Hughes County.

Alexander was a lifelong member of Middle Creek #1 Church and the Muskogee-Seminole-Wichita Association in Henryetta.

Preceding her in death was her husband and one great-grandson, Lvmhe Watson.

Survivors include: son, John Alexander of Tulsa; six daughters, Abbie Lamey of Holdenville, Martha Jimboy of Lexington, Esther Pickup of Chouteau, Margaret & Emma of Lawrence, Kansas, and Clara Keawphalouk of Clinton; sister, Mamie Bear of Calvin; eighteen grandchildren; sixteen great-grandchildren; best friend/classmate, Helen Bible.

Interment was at Carson Cemetery.

## PAULINEBUTLER

HANNA — Funeral services for Pauline Fixico Butler were held January 16 at Hillabee Baptist Church with Rev. Malcomb Tiger and Rev. James Coker officiating.

She was born December 22, 1920 in Seminole to Lana Spencer and Jonas Fixico. Pauline married Wiley Butler in 1952 in McIntosh County.

Butler lived most of her life in Hanna. She worked as a nurses aid and a sewing machine operator for POK in Pharoah, Oklahoma. Pauline liked playing bingo, cooking, sewing, listening to church songs. She always prepared meals, had lots of friends, and was a very special woman and was loved by everyone she knew.

Preceding her in death were: husband; two daughters, Jessie and Lucy Butler; parents; two sisters, Susie Mitchell and Nelessey Harjo; and one brother, Thelmond Fixico.

Survivors include: six children, Elizabeth and Wiley Butler Jr., both of Okmulgee, Judy Proctor of Hanna, Frankie Alexander of Seminole, Penny Murray and Bessie Alexander, both of Shawnee; eighteen grandchildren; eighteen great-grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; brother, John Fixico of Sapulpa; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, friends, and other relatives.

Interment was at Butler Family Cemetery.

## HELENCOOK

OKMULGEE — Funeral services for Helen Cook were held January 2 at the Creek Nation Community Center with Rev. Alex Lowe officiating.

She was born October 25, 1926, in the Salt Creek Community, to Reverend Alfred and Mattie Deer Harjo. Cook was of the Deer Clan and Tulmochussee Tribal Town. She married Joe Cook in Holdenville where they raised three sons and five daughters.

Helen loved quilting and cooking, listening to gospel music, watching OU football and basketball, the World Series, and Wheel of Fortune on TV, and taking care of her family. Apart from her own activities, she loved being a part of whatever her family and friends were involved in, especially getting together for big family dinners and watching them play softball or basketball, and various other sports.

Preceding her in death were: husband; parents; brother, Jimmy Harjo; and three infant children.

Survivors include: three sons, Ernest of Holdenville, Alan of Tulsa, and Don of Wewoka; five daughters, Carol Clay of Holdenville, Evelyn Cook of Ada, Brenda Teehee and Jackie Cook, both of Tahlequah, and Lisa Coffland of Tuba City, Arizona; ten grandchildren; four great grandchildren; two brothers, Raymond of Holdenville and Leonard Harjo of Okemah; two sisters, Linda McIntosh of Yukon and Agnes Stonerod of Oklahoma City; friend, Velma McGeeley; and numerous nieces, nephews, other family members, and many friends.

Pallbearers include: Daniel Clay; Brandon and David Cook; Monty Davis; Tony Elizondo; Rodney Gann; and Matt Teehee. Honorary pallbearers include: Ron Clay; Don Coffland; Greg Cole; Jimmy Teehee; and Larry Topaum.

Interment was at the Harjo Family Cemetery.

## WILLIE ELLIS

CLAREMORE — Willie passed away on December 17, 2003 in the Claremore Oklahoma Veterans Center. Born in 1916 at Bald Hill, Oklahoma to Doolie & Nellie Ellis.

Ellis enlisted in the Army Air Corps in early 1941 and was shipped to the Philippine Islands in April 1942. He was captured by the Japanese Army at Bataan – Corregidor. Willie survived the Bataan Death March and three and a half years as a P.O.W. He was awarded the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, Bataan Medal, Germany Occupation, Berlin Airlift, Oklahoma Medal of Valor and many others. Willie retired in 1961 as Master Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force.

He was preceded in death by: his wife, Allie; sister, Pandora Parsons; and brother, Jacob Ellis.

Survivors include: son, Willie Clyde of Edgewood, New Mexico; three sisters, Nellie Burke of Ft. Worth, Texas, Dorothy Meyer & Lillian Crow; two brothers, Richard & A.D. Ellis, all of Twin Hills; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial military service will be conducted in May 2004 at the family cemetery in Bruner Canyon.

## FREELING PORTER

LAWRENCE, Kansas — Funeral services for Freeling Alex Porter were held December 6 at Haskell Indian Nations University with Rev. Marilyn Bread officiating.

Freeling was a full-blood Creek Indian born and raised in Oklahoma among his Creek people in the Muskogee/Okmulgee area. Born in 1935, Mr. Porter was witness to many world events including World War II, the war in Viet Nam, and the assassination of a President of the United States.

But Mr. Porter's first love was his classroom and the students he came to know during the fourteen years he served as an instructor at Haskell. He started his career in education by completing his bachelor's degree in business education at Northeastern State University in Edmond, Oklahoma and completed a Masters of education degree in 1976. Freeling has taught school at the elementary, Jr. high, and high school level. He was a teacher at Fort Sill Indian School, Big Cabin Public Schools, Fairland Public Schools, Commerce Public Schools and Miami High School. Porter started his elementary and secondary teaching career in 1961 at Ft. Sill Indian School and retired from teaching in 1989, after serving 28 years of teaching at the elementary and secondary level. He came to Haskell in the fall of 1989 as an instructor in the Business Department.

Survivors include: children, Will, Chebon, and Winnie Porter; and a host of friends.

The family requests that any gifts be donated in monetary form, directly to the Department of Business, Haskell Indian

Nations University.

## REV. JOE SMITH

CASTLE — Funeral services for Rev. Joe Smith were held October 30 at Prairie Springs Indian Baptist Church with Rev. Gene Harjo and Rev. Chad Smith officiating.

He was born August 27, 1919 in Okfuskee County to Malley Ahfonoke and Jim Smith.

He moved to Tulsa as a child and there he attended school. He later joined the U.S. Army and served his country during World War II. Following his discharge he returned to Oklahoma. He met and married Janetta Fixico and they made their home in the Castle area. Smith worked as a farm laborer and traveled doing harvest work. He was later employed by the Creek Nation Indian Health Services as a heavy equipment operator. Joe installed water and other utility lines on new home construction. In 1969, he became an ordained minister and pastor of the Prairie Springs Indian Baptist Church where he served until his death.

His wife Janetta died December 24, 1995 and he met Mary Pigeon and they were married January 17, 1998. They made their home in Weleetka. He enjoyed playing baseball and hunting quail and squirrel.

Survivors include: five children, Betty and Jason of Castle, Captain John of Wolf, Randolph of Paden, and Gale of Shawnee; four stepchildren, Stanley, Virgil, and Ricky Pigeon and Stephanie Brown, all of Weleetka; brother, Sam Cooper of Castle; eleven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and seven step-grandchildren.

Interment was at the Prairie Springs Indian Baptist Church cemetery.

## ANGELANDALEXIATUCKER

HENRYETTA — Graveside services for Angel Lee and Alexia Kay Tucker were held January 7 at Yardeka Indian Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Mitchell Taylor officiating.

They were born January 3 to Rachel Sumka and Raymond Tucker and died the same day.

Survivors include: one sister, Alexis Tucker; parents; grandparents, Ann Sumka, Velma Tucker, and Raymond Tucker Sr.; great grandmother; and several aunts and uncles.

## Gratitude

We would like to thank the following for their prayers, words of comfort, flowers, food, cards, and to those who stopped by during the loss of our mother: churches, Middle Creek #1 Church, Salt Creek Methodist, Wetumka Indian Center for use of their building; Reverends, Johnson Roberts, Joe Wallace Bruner, and Jimmy Alexander for leading out in Creek hymns; Raymond McGirt; Creek Nation; Social Services; Perry Beaver; Will Freeman; Bob Tiger; Geneva Lamey; and Cleo Robison.

God Bless all of you. *Mvto.*

**Hattie Bruner Alexander Family**

We would like to express our appreciation to Augusta Anderson and Christie Baldridge, employees of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation Social Services, who showed much concern and who gave great assistance in the burial and food voucher in our time of need. We would also like to thank the Yardeka, Hickory Ground #1, and Hickory Ground #2 churches. Also a special thanks to Rev. Mitchell Taylor. *Mvto.*

**Angel Lee and Alexia Kay Tucker family**

## Shop talk with Gerald

In 2002, Joe Pickering of Bangor, Maine produced a CD, along with "King of the Road Music," entitled "Baseball Songs and Sports Heroes". The CD contained songs about the great American pastime. Songs such as "Babe Ruth's Curse," "Fenway" and the "Whose the Greatest Red Sox Fan" are entertaining songs that portray a time when baseball was truly the most popular sport in the nation. For that very reason, the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York recently included the CD into it's Hall of Fame music collection. Now what connects this close to the MNN and Native America in general is that Pickering included a song on the same CD about racism against American Indians in the song "I'm Not Your Mascot, I'm a Man." Maybe a national entity such as the Baseball Hall of Fame including this collection will draw attention to this controversial subject in some way, every little bit helps. March Madness is at full height. The college game leads the way with it's annual NCAA tournament bracket. A total of 64 teams will grace the big screens throughout out the month giving the average sports junkie an overdose of pure unadulterated basketball. Of course on the local level, the area high schools have just completed their district, regional, and state championship runs. Congratulations to all Muscogee (Creek) players and coaches who participated in this annual exciting event.

But roundball action isn't over just yet, the 1st Annual All-Indian March Madness Tournament will be underway at the Dewar High School Gymnasium beginning Thursday, March 18 and running through Saturday. Lucas Taylor, coordinator of the event, has not only invited Native American athletes and teams from around the area, but teams from Texas and Wisconsin have also been invited to compete. If you get a chance, come on out and enjoy some good high school Indian athletes as they not only compete for the coveted *Gold Ball*, but also display their talents in such events as the East-West All star game, Hot-shot Shoot-Out, and Slam Dunk Competition.

The tournament has also drawn support from University of Oklahoma Men's Head Basketball Coach Kelvin Sampson. Sampson, who is a member of the Lumbee Tribe, has issued a letter to the tournament committee extending his support and congratulations on creating such a unique event.

Video and DVD copies of the boys and girls championship games, as well the individual competitions and a special music video featuring highlights from the overall tournament, will be produced and made available for ordering from the Communications Department.

Keep bringing us that information about those good Creek athletes that are playing so well this year and are making great accomplishments to their teams.

## Creek Warrior close to retiring from boxing

OKMULGEE — After bringing so much pride, joy and just plain good fighting to local fight fans, BJ Waggnor is seriously considering calling it quits in the ring. Waggnor stated that he is 75% sure he will retire very soon from the sport of boxing.

"I have a lot of responsibilities in my life right now," said Waggnor. "I know there are other things in my life that certainly warrant attention, such as other career opportunities."

Waggnor is currently employed with Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE) where he oversees the proper installation of security devices in corporate buildings. Waggnor is certainly enjoying success outside of the ring and looking to build another career.

Waggnor has said that other tribes, such as the Florida Seminoles, have contacted him and shown interest in creating a match for him. And it is that interest that has the *Creek Warrior* looking at all his options, including fighting again.



Waggnor

Its no exaggeration to say Waggnor has been around the fight game all of his life. With the tutoring from his Father, Billy, BJ began fighting at the age of 7 at local YMCA and Boy's Club facilities throughout the Tulsa area. Waggnor would go on to fight boxing tournaments as well. Eventually he began fighting in Golden Glove competitions where he even faced a young Oscar DeLaHoya.

Waggnor has loved fighting in the ring and it shows. Defining himself as technical fighter, Waggnor studies his opponent carefully while in the ring.

His matches have been known to start slow and then he would usually explode into a barrage of quick lefts and rights. A barrage that would leave his opponent trying to mentally download what just occurred as he lay on the canvas looking up at Waggnor

Waggnor's record has been very impressive, 500 wins and only 19 losses as an amateur. Not only did he quickly become a local fan favorite with Native Americans, non-Native Americans took to him as well.

As the Muscogee (Creek) Nation became more involved with hold local fight cards in the Tulsa area, it was always Waggnor who would be asked by promoters if he would fight on the card. So popular was his draw, that former Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver requested that he fight on a local card promoted by Tony Holden at the Creek Nation Casino in Tulsa.

Waggnor is still a part of the boxing world. He often helps his father train up and coming Native American fighters and often gives advice to the young pugilists to use inside and outside the ring.

## Liberty player continues to pile on the points

LIBERTY MOUNDS — Issac Mosquito is finding out what its all about playing the game of high school basketball on both sides of the roundball gamut. Mosquito, the six foot Senior who plays for the Liberty Mounds Tiger, recently scored his one thousand five-hundred and seventy-seventh point for his High School career and it is still accumulating

The Tigers advanced to the state tournament losing a heartbreaker to Colbert in the first round by a score of 62 to 60. The Tigers finish the season with a 15-10 record. Quite a difference considering last year when Mosquito and the Tigers posted a 23 wins and 3 losses record, but Mosquito takes it all in stride.

He sparked this Class 2A team by keeping a 27.1 scoring average at the point guard position. This called for Mosquito to be the leader, setting the tone and tempo with his teammates and the game.

Mosquito, like most Muscogee (Creek) kids, grew

up playing the game of basketball. Learning and loving the game was easy.

At the high school level, Mosquito has started since he was a freshman and has helped the Tigers this year by also averaging 7 rebounds, 7 steals, and 7 assists per game.

One of Mosquito's many highlights came this year in January when he scored 40 points in consecutive games against Drumright and the Tigers arch-rival Mounds.

Mosquito, whose mother and father are Robbie and Rex Mosquito, describes his team as a physical one that isn't afraid to rough it up. Mosquito is helped out by another Muscogee (Creek) athlete on the team, Cory Barnett, Jr.

Mosquito doesn't know exactly what he wants to do with his future just yet, but the aspirations of becoming a fireman are being looked at. Perhaps even walking-on the OU Basketball Program.



Mosquito